

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-10

DOT-00 EUR-25 /101 W

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R 270614Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1642

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRN, GH, NI, CG

SUBJECT: CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 34636; LAGOS 10290

1. EFFECT IN NIGERIA OF TERMINATION PANAM OPERATIONS IN GHAN
WOULD BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO DEGREE TO WHICH ISSUE OF PANAM
ONWARD FLIGHTS TO JOHANNESBURG WAS BROUGHT INTO PUBLIC
DISCUSSION AND USED AS JUSTIFICATION BY GOG.

2. AS REPORTED LAGOS 10290, U.K. BID FOR CONCORDE SERVICE
LONDON/LAGOS/JOHANNESBURG WAS REJECTED BECAUSE OF JOHANNESBURG
LEG AND FMG INDICATED TO U.K. IT WOULD TERMINATE PANAM AND KLM
LICENSES TO OPERATE THROUGH NIGERIAN TO SOUTH AFRICA. NOTHING
HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN HEARD OF THIS, POSSIBLY BECAUSE STATEMENT
WAS MADE IN AN UNPUBLICIZED CONVERSATION. IF MATTER WERE MADE
PUBLIC ISSUE IN PRESS, HOWEVER, FMG WOULD BE UNDER STRONG
PRESSURE TO DEMONSTRATE IT WAS AS MILITANT AS GHANA ON THE ISSUE.
THIS WOULD APPLY TO EXISTING PANAM FLIGHTS TO JOHANNESBURG AS
WELL AS FOURTH FREQUENCY (ALTHOUGH LATTER COULD BE RECAST
TO TERMINATE IN NAIROBI OR KINSHASA, AS PANAM REP. SAYS HE
HAS PROPOSED TO HIS HEADQUARTERS). SOUTH AFRICA ELEMENT IN
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SITUATION WOULD MOREOVER BE LIKELY TO INHIBIT EMBASSY EFFHKT USE

GOOD OFFICES IN SUPPORT OF PANAM.

3. IF JOHANNESBURG SERVICE WERE NOT MADE AN ISSUE, GHANIAN TERMINATION OF PANAM OPERATION MUCH LESS LIKELY AFFECT PANAM IN NIGERIA. WE BELIEVE EXISTING AND PROPOSED FOURTH PANAM FLIGHTS COULD OPERATE SATISFACTORILY WITHOUT ACCRA, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF PANAM VIEWS ON THIS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PANAM REP. HERE THAT HIS EFFORTS OBTAIN FOURTH FREQUENCY STILL FOCUSED ON NIGERIA AIRWAYS AND DISCUSSION OF RETURNS TO NA ON THAT AND OTHER FREQUENCIES. HIS CONVERSATIONS REPORTEDLY BOGGED DOWN BUT HE BELIEVES IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE CIRCUMVENT NIGERIAN AIRWAYS AND SO DO WE. ITS POSITION IS IMPORTANT AND PERHAPS CRUCIAL. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THOSE IN FMG WHO MIGHT WISH TO REFUSE FOURTH FREQUENCY COULD USE JOHANNESBURG LEG AS A COUNTERING ARGUMENT, UNLESS JOHANNESBURG WERE REPLACED BY NAIROBI OR KINSHASA, AS INDICATED ABOVE.
REINHARDT

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